Foreign news despatches about Indian Troop movement along J&K borders

@1484. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of certain foiregn news despatches about the troop movement and build up in the borer State of Jammu and Kashmir on the Indian side;

(b) if so, the details of those despatches, including the news agencies and the publication by various news media and the names of the countries where the publicity was given; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to counter such aggravating propaganda ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These despathces usually mention in passing or in minor detail accusations of the Pakistani official and unofficial sources, of Indian troop deployment, or movement.

These despatches are generally filled by international news agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press and Agence France Presse, and are carried around the world mostly in the press of other countries. But by and large, such reports emanate from the Pakistani media, and while some of them are attributed to these foreign agencies, many of them have Pakistani sources.

(c) The MEA spokesman con ducts daily briefings where he meets the Indian and foreign media persons and clarifies our position on various issues. Besides this, important policy statements made by the Prime Minister, the EAM and the Government spokesman are circulated, along with background material on the Kashmir issue, inclusive of audio-visual material, to our Missions abroad as background for their local briefings. Background materail is also circulated to the journalists, both Indian and foreign.

Absorption of retrenched ED Employees

1485. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 3 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1989 and state whether all retrenched ED stamp vendors have been taken back on duty; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : The Starred Question No. 3 replied in Rajya Sabha on 18th July 1989 was asked by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament in the context of better scales of pay and other facilities to E.D. Employees available to other regular employees and not in the context of retrenched E.D. Stamp Vendors. However, out of (139) retrenched E.D. Stamp Vendors (123) have since been absorbed. The remaining (16) E.D. Stamp Vendors are those who are not willing to work at the stations other than the stations from where they were retrenched. They are not willing to accept offer of alternate jobs as well. Due to non-availability of the vacancies, it is not possible to absorb them at the same places from where they were retrenched.

@Previously unstarred Question 796, transferred from the 15th, May, 1990.